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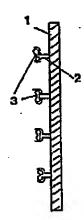
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(6) A reflector atructure for infrared radiation ovens.

(ii) The invention discloses a reflector structure for infrared radiation overs intended for hest treatment of objects and incorporating an oven chamber through which objects to be treated are conveyed and which is provided with radiation sources constituted by infrared heating tubes (3) and having reflectors (1) provided behind said infrared tubes, at least the reflector surface thereby being manufactured by a caramic fibrous material, adepted to reflect most of the radiation of the infrared heating tube (3), but to shouth a portion thereof in order to reach such an elevated temperature on the surfaces of the reflectors that any impurities on eald reflector surfaces will be incinerated.

FIG 1



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A REFLECTOR STRUCTURE FOR INFRARED RADIATION OVENS

Background of the invention

The present invention refers to a reflector structure for infrared radiation ovens, hereinafter referred to as IR-ovens, intended for heat treatment of objects and incorporating an oven chamber through which objects to be treated are conveyed and which is provided with radiation sources constituted by infrared heating tubes, hereinafter referred to as IR-tubes, and having reflectors provided behind said infrared tubes.

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IR-ovens of this kind are used for a plurality of different heat treatment purposes, such as drying of painted objects, food preparation, hot treatment etceters.

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The overall efficiency of an IR-oven is dependent of the combination of IR-tubes and reflector: The oven chamber in which the IR-tubes are located is designed as a reflector room, wherein the the secondary radiation from the IR-tubes hits the objects to be treated via the reflectors; and the objects are thus subjected to a maximum of radiation energy.

In order to give such a high efficiency as possible, the reflector room is generally built from a high reflecting material such as gold coated or aluminized sheet steel or the like.

After operation during a period of time the reflector surface of the oven chamber is coated by a burnt-in layer or impurity, the origin and composition of which can vary but which most often consists of dust, powder particles, grease and the like. This coating absorbs an ever bigger part of the radiation energy emitted from the IR-tubes and the efficiency of the IR-oven becomes lower, whereby a large portion of the radiation energy from ther IR-tubes are instead used for heating the reflectors.

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Due to the gradually decreased efficiency of the oven the heat treatment result will also become uneven.

Cleaning of these contaminated surfaces is hardly possible with conventional methods and at least not when the reflector surface in its position in the oven. The hitherto most common method for increasing the efficience again after operation of the oven for a period of time is that the oven is shut down, whereupon the contaminated sections are dismantled and substituted for new reflector surfaces. As it in particular are the reflector surfaces situated closest to the IR-tubes, i.e. the surfaces behind the IR-tubes, which are subjected to the impurities is this a time-wasting work as also the IR-tubes have to be dismounted for allowing the exchange of such reflector surfaces.

This means beside the work, that the oven must be put out of operation for some time rather often, which of course affects its possible ratio of production to capacity.

O The ourpose and most essential features of the invention

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a reflector structure for IR-ovens of the kind defined in the preamble, which entails that the reflector surfaces of the oven chamber are subjected to a continuous cleaning, whereby the the efficiency of the IR-oven will be high and above all even, which will guarantee an even heat treatment result, and this has been achieved in that the reflector structure has been given features defined in the accompanying claims.

Brief description of the drawings

Figure 1 shows in cross-section a reflector structure according to the invention and incorporating a refector disc and IR-tubes mounted thereon.

Figure 2 is a corresponding cross-section through a box-shaped combination of IR-tubes/reflector.

Figure 3 shows a planar view of the combination shown in Fig.

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Figure 4 shows in an end view an IR-oven equipped with the reflector structure according to the invention.
Figures 5 and 6 show schematically the directions of the radiation beams at the reflectors according to invention.

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Description of the preferred embodiments

rigure 1 shows in cross-section a reflector disc 1 provided with retainers 2 for a number of IR-tubes 3 of any proper type.

The reflector disc 1 is a self-supporting ceramic fibre plate, preferably based on alumina and which has the the property of reflecting the bigger part of the radiation whereas a smaller part thereof is absorbed by the surface of the reflector material. The temperature of the reflector surface thereby will increase rapidly to high values, whereby organic impurities are burnt away from the reflector surface, and the reflector has hereby become a self-cleaning reflector 1.

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Such a ceramic fibre plate, which is available on the market under the trade name TRITON KAOWOOL, as an insulating plate, has unexpectedly proven itself to give the desired effect as a self-cleaning reflector disc, whereby it at the same time has an insulating effect against its side turned away from the reflector.

The material which contains 43-47 % Al_2O_3 and 57-53 % $5iO_2$ has the ability of withstanding temperatures up till 1400° C. i.e. temperatures which are more than sufficient in order to allow contaminations such as dust, paint particles or grease to be incinerated, the reflector disc 1 of this material reflects about 85% of the infrared radiation whereas 15% is absorbed and thereby is used for keeping the reflector clean. It is to be understood that also other similar materials can be used for the same purpose.

Figure 2 shows in cross-sectioncorresponding to Fig. 1, a

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box-shaped unit 4 incorporating an insulating reflector disc 1 with retainers 2 which project from one side surface thereof and carry IR-tubes 3, whereas on the opposite side of the disc is fitted a sheet metal housing; consisting of a sheet metal frame 5 and a covering sheet 6. The housing can contain a not shown discharge blower and it is for this purpose provided with a connecting socket 7.

From figure 3, which shows the box-shaped unit according to fig. 2 in planar view from the side surface thereof provided with the IR-tubes 3, it can be seen how the retainers 2, which carry the IR-tubes are located one adjacent each end of the different IR-tubes. The unit is also provided with mounting holes 8 for mounting of the unit into an IR-oven. At each end connection for the IR-tubes there are perforations 9 intended to introduce cooling air from the sheet metal housing to these connections.

The self-supporting reflector disc according to Fig. 1 can be adapted after the current requirements and it can be mounted in existing oven chambers without the necessity of changing the oven shell in appreciable content.

With the unit according to Figs. 2 and 3 is it possible to make a mounting in an oven chamber having an arbitrary design.

and if neither of the designs shown in Figs. 1 or 2.3 is

suitable is it possible to adapt the combination IR-tubes/reflector to any type of oven.

Fig.4 shows as an example an application of the invention at a powder heat treating oven for melting and setting of plastic material layers applied on objects, e.g. by means of electrostatic coating.

The IR-oven incorporates i.a. an oven chamber in two hingedly connected halfes 10.11 which are articulated about a shaft arranged to extend in the longitudinal direction of the oven. Each one of the halves being connected to actuators 12 by means of which the oven can be opened such as intimated in dash lines. The oven may alternatively be provided with a

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. jaterally hinged openable doors.

In closed position (continuos lines) the two oven halves 10,11 form an oven space 13 through which objects to be treated are conveyed. The oven space 13 is provided with an internal well confinement, which in the cloping roof and bottom regions 14 and 15 resp. have through-holes or perforations. The inner vertical walls 16, however, have no perforations, but they are at their walls facing the center of the oven chamber designed as reflectors, which carry a number of IR-tubes 17. Also the sloping roof and bottom regions 14. 15 can of course be designed as reflectors. The reflector surfaces 16 are designed in the manner described hereabove in connection to Figs. 1,2 and 3. Also the surfaces 14,15 may, 1f they are formed as reflectors, be made from ceramic fibre material, but the self-cleaning effect can hardly be obtained on these surfaces as the reflector must be arranged rather close to the IR-tube for reaching a sufficiently high temperature.

20 In the roof of each even half there is arranged radial blowers 19 for circulation of the oven atmosphere through the perforations in the inner roof 14 of the oven and via ducts 18 between the reflectors 16 and the outer, insulated, vertical oven wall to the bottom of the oven, where the atmosphere 25 again is introduced into the oven chamber through perforations in the bottom regions 15.

The cross-section of the oven chamber is hexagonal, and only the vertical walls are used for supporting the IR-tubes, in order not the risk the tubes being damaged by falling objects. The IR-tubes can alternatively be mounted separately on a supporting structure freestanding from the walls 16, butr anyhow adjacent these.

35 The IR-oven may however have any desired shape and it can be adapted for hanging objects or horizontally conveyed objects.

In figure 5 is schematically shown an IR-unit 5 having a

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reflector disc 1 fitted to one of its sides and IR-tubes 3 applied thereto, which tubes emitt infrared radiation. The figure also shows a schematically intimated work piece or object 20, which shall be subjected to some kind of heat treatment. The object 20 as seen is subjected to direct radiation 21 as well as secondary radiation 22, which is reflected from the reflector disc 1.

Figur 6 is a corresponding view of a reflector disc 1 with an IR-tube whereby the radiation is illustrated as direct radiation 21 against a not shown object, direct radiation 23 against the reflector disc 1, and secondary radiation 22, reflected from the reflection disc 1.

Of the primary, direct radiation 23, which hits the reflector disc, with a reflector material of the type described above, about 15% of the radiation to be absorbed by the reflector disc. This energy incinerates the contaminations on the reflector disc 1 and a clean reflector is obtained, which emits about 85% of the energy from the primary radiation 23 as secondary radiation.

The invention is not limited to the embodiments shown in the accompanying drawings and described with reference thereto but modifications are possible within the scope of the accompanying claims.

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CLAIMS

1. A reflector structure for infrared radiation ovens intended for heat treatment of objects and incorporating an oven champer (13) through which objets to be treated are conveyed and which is provided with radiation sources constituted by infrared heating tubes (3,17) and having reflectors (1,14,15,16) provided behind said infrared tubes.

that at least the reflector surface (1.16) is a coramic fibrous material, adapted to reflect most of the radiation of the infrared heating tube, but to absorb a portion thereof in order to reach such an elevated temperature on the surfaces of the reflectors that any impurities on said reflector surfaces will be incinerated.

2. A reflector structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in, that the reflector material incorporates $Al_{2}O_{2}$.

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3. A reflector structure as claimed in claim 1 or 2. characterized in. that the reflector material consists of 43 - 47 % Al_2O_3 and 57 - 53 % SiO_2 .

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4. A reflector structure for an infrared radiation oven as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 3, characterized in,

that it is designed as a self-supporting reflector disc (1), having retainers (2) for supporting infrared heating tubes (3), without intermediate shields between the infrared tubes and the reflector surface.

A reflector structure for an infrared radiation oven as
 claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 3,
 characterized in,

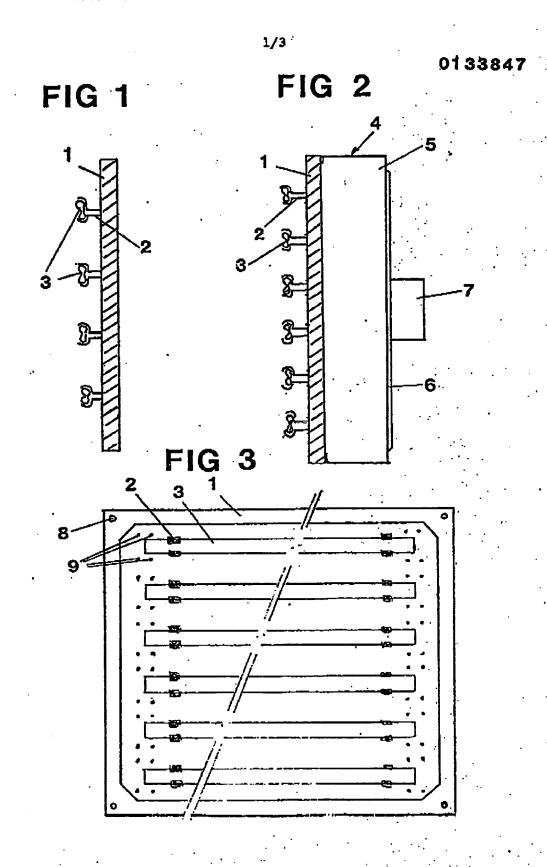
that it is designed as a box-shaped unit provided with a reflector disc (1) which on one of its flat side surfaces

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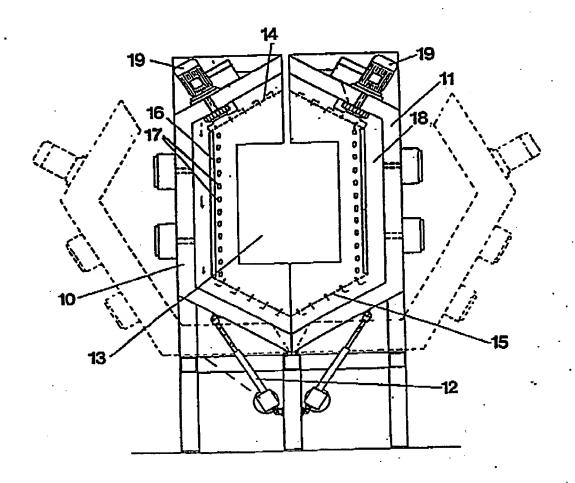
carries unshielded retainers (2) projecting therefrom and supporting infrared heating tubes (3) and a having a housing (5,8) connected to the opposite side of the reflector disc and adapted to incorporate mounting members (8) and to be able to enclose cooling and/or ventilation means.



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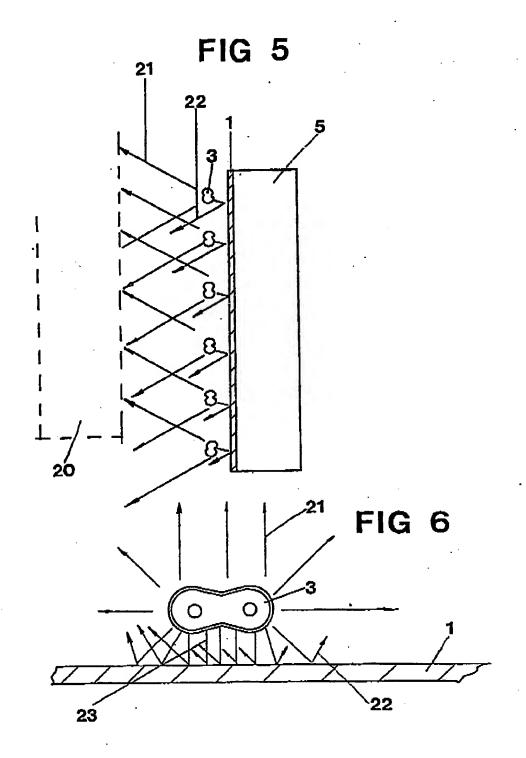
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FIG 4



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Description

Background of the invention

The present invention refers to a reflector structure for infrared radiation ovens, hereinafter referred to as IR-ovens, intended for heat treatment of objects and incorporating an oven chamber through which objects to be treated are conveyed and which is provided with radiation sources constituted by infrared heating tubes, hereinafter referred to as IR-tubes, and having reflectors provided behind said infrared tubes (see e.g. DE—8—K928 V/82).

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iR-ovens of this kind are used for a plurality of different heat treatment purposes, such as drying of painted objects, food preparation, hot treatment etceters.

The overall efficiency of the IR-oven is dependent of the combination of IR-tubes and reflector. The oven chamber in which the IR-tubes are located is designed as a reflector room, wherein the secondary radiation from the IR-tubes hits the objects to be treated via the reflectors, and the objects are thus subjected to a maximum of radiation energy.

in order to give such a high efficiency as possible, the reflector room is generally bullt from a high reflecting material such as gold coated or aluminized sheet steel or the like.

After operation during a period of time the reflector surface of the oven chamber is coated by a burnt-in leyer or impurity, the origin and composition of which can vary but which most often consists of dust, powder particles, grease and the like. This coating absorbs an ever bigger part of the radiation energy emitted from the IR-tubes and the efficiency of the IR-oven becomes lower, whereby a large portion of the radiation energy from the IR-tubes are instead used for heating the reflectors.

Due to the gradually decreased efficiency of the oven the heat treatment result will else become unavan.

Cleaning of these contaminated surfaces is hardly possible with conventional methods and et least not when the reflector surface in its position in the oven. The hitherto most common method for increasing the efficience again after operation of the oven for a period of time is that the oven is shut down, whereupon the contaminated sections are dismantled and substituted for new reflector surfaces. As it in particular are the reflector surfaces situated closest to the IR-tubes, i.e. the surfaces behind the IR-tubes, which are subjected to the impurities is this a time-wasting work as also the IR-tubes have to be dismounted for allowing the exchange of such reflector surfaces.

This means beside the work, that the oven must be put out of operation for some time rather often, which of course affects its possible ratio of production to capacity.

The purpose and most essential features of the invention

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a reflector structure for IR-ovens of the kind defined in the preamble, which entails that the reflector surfaces of the oven chamber are subjected to a continuous cleaning, whereby the efficiency of the IR-oven will be high and above all even, which will guarantee an even heat treatment result, and this has been achieved in that the reflector structure has been given features defined in the accompanying claims.

Brief description of the drawings

Figure 1 shows in cross-section a reflector structure according to the invention and incorporating a reflector disc and IR-tubes mounted thereon.

Figure 2 is a corresponding cross-section through a box-shaped combination of IR-tubes/reflector.

Figure 3 shows a planar view of the combination shown in Fig. 2.

Figure 4 shows in an end view an IR-oven equipped with the reflector structure according to the invention.

Figures 5 and 6 show schematically the directions of the radiation beams at the reflectors according to invention.

Description of the preferred embodiments

Figure 1 shows in cross-section a reflector disc 1 provided with retainers 2 for a number of IRtubes 3 of any proper type.

The reflector disc 1 is a self-supporting ceramic fiber plate, preferably based on alumina and which has the property of reflecting the bigger part of the radiation whereas a smaller part thereof is absorbed by the surface of the reflector material. The temperature of the reflector surface thereby will increase rapidly to high values, whereby organic impurities are burnt away from the reflector surface, and the reflector has hereby become a self-cleaning reflector 1.

Such a ceramic fibre plate, which is evallable on the market under the trade name TRITON KAOWOOL as an Insulating plate, has unexpectedly proven itself to give the desired effect as a self-cleaning reflector disc, whereby it at the same time has an insulating effect against its side turned away from the reflector.

The material which contains 43—47 % Al₂O₂ and 57—53% SiO₂ has the ability of withstanding temperatures up till 1400°C, i.e. temperatures which are more than sufficient in order to allow contaminations such as dust, paint particles or grease to be incincrated, the reflector disc 1 of this material reflects about 85% of the infrared rediction whereas 15% is absorbed and thereby is used for keeping the reflector clean. It is to be understood that also other similar materials can be used for the same purpose.

Figure 2 shows in cross-section corresponding to Fig. 1, a box-shaped unit 4 incorporating an insulating reflector disc 1 with retainers 2 which

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project from one side surface thereof and carry IRtubes 3, whereas on the opposite side of the disc is fitted a sheet metal housing, consisting of a sheet metal frame 5 and a covering sheet 6. The housing can contain a not shown discharge blower and it is for this purpose provided with a connecting societ 7.

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From Figure 3, which shows the box-shaped unit according to Fig. 2 in planar view from the side surface thereof provided with the IR-tubes 3, it can be seen how the retainers 2, which carry the IR-tubes are located one adjacent each end of the different IR-tubes. The unit is also provided with mounting holes 8 for mounting of the unit into an IR-oven. At each end connection for the IR-tubes there are perforations 9 intended to Introduce cooling air from the sheet metal housing to these

The self-supporting reflector disc according to Fig. 1 can be adapted after the current requirements and it can be mounted in existing oven chambers without the necessity of changing the oven shell in appreciable content.

With the unit according to Figs. 2 and 3 it is possible to make a mounting in an oven chamber having an arbitrary design, and if neither of the designs shown in Figs. 1 or 2, 3 is suitable it is possible to adapt the combination IR-tubes/reflector to any type of oven.

Fig. 4 shows as an example an application of the invention at a powder heat treating oven for melting and setting of plastic material layers applied on objects, e.g. by means of electrostatic

The IR-oven incorporates i.a. en oven chamber in two hingedly connected halves 10, 11 which are articulated about a shaft arranged to extend in the longitudinal direction of the oven. Each one of the halves being connected to actuators 12 by means of which the oven can be opened such as intimated in dash lines. The oven may alternatively be provided with a laterally hinged openable dpors.

In dosed position (continuous lines) the two oven halves 10, 11 form an oven space 13 through which objects to be treated are conveyed. The oven space 13 is provided with an internal wall confinement, which in the sloping roof and bottom regions 14 and 15 resp. have throughholes or perforations. The inner vertical walls 16, however, have no perforations, but they are at their walls facing the center of the oven chamber designed as reflectors, which carry a number of IR-tubes 17. Also the sloping roof and bottom regions 14, 15 can of course be designed as reflectors. The reflector surfaces 16 are designed in the manner described hereabove in connection to Figs. 1, 2 and 3. Also the surfaces 14, 15 may, if they are formed as reflectors, be made from ceramic fibre material, but the self-cleaning effect can hardly be obtained on these surfaces as the reflector must be arranged rather close to the IRtube for reaching a sufficiently high temperature. In the roof of each oven half there is arranged

radial blowers 19 for circulation of the oven

atmosphere through the perforations in the inner roof 14 of the oven and via ducts 18 between the reflectors 16 and the outer, insulated, vertical oven wall to the bottom of the oven, where the atmosphere again is introduced into the oven chamber through the perforations in the bottom regions 15.

The cross-section of the oven chamber is hexagonal, and only the vertical walls are used for supporting the IR-tubes, in order not to risk the tubes being damaged by falling objects. The IRtubes can alternatively be mounted separately on a supporting structure freestanding from the walls 16, but anyhow adjacent these.

The IR-oven may however have any desired shape and it can be adapted for hanging objects or horizontally conveyed objects.

In figure 5 is schematically shown in IR-unit 5 having a reflector disc 1 fitted to one of its sides and IR-tubes 3 applied thereto, which tubes emitt infrared radiation. The figure also shows a schematically intimated work piece or object 20, which shall be subjected to some kind of heat treatment. The object 20 as seen is subjected to direct radiation 21 as well as secondary radiation 22, which is reflected from the reflector disc 1.

Figure 6 is a corresponding view of a reflector disc 1 with an IR-tube whereby the radiation is lliustrated as direct radiation 21 against a not shown object, direct radiation 23 against the reflector disc 1, and secondary radiation 22, reflected from the reflection disc 1.

Of the primary, direct radiation 23, which hits the reflector disc, with a reflector material of the type described above, about 15 % of the radiation is absorbed by the reflector disc. This energy incinerates the contaminations on the reflector disc 1 and a clean reflector is obtained, which emits about 85% of the energy from the primary radiation 23 as secondary radiation.

1. A reflector structure for infrared rediation ovens intended for heat treatment of objects and incorporating an oven chamber (13) through which objects to be treated are conveyed and which is provided with radiation sources constituted by infrared heating tubes (3, 17) and having reflectors (1, 14, 15, 16) provided behind said Infrared tubes characterized in, that at least the reflector surface (1, 16) is a ceramic fibrous meterial, edapted to reflect most of the rediation of the infrared heating tube, but to absorb a portion thereof in order to reach such an elevated temperature on the surfaces of the reflectors that any impurities on said reflector surfaces will be incinerated.

A reflector structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in, that the reflector meterial incorporates Al₂O₃.

3. A reflector structure as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the reflector material consists of 43-47 % Al₂O₄ and 57-53 % SiO₂.

4. A reflector structure for an infrared radiation

oven as dalmed in anyone of claims 1 to 3, characterized in, that it is designed as a selfsupporting reflector disc (1), having retainers (2) for supporting infrared heating tubes (3), without intermediate shields between the infrared tubes

and the reflector surface.

5. A reflector structure for an infrared radiation oven as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 3, characterized in, that it is designed as a box-shaped unit provided with a reflector disc (1) which on one of its flat side surfaces carries unshielded retainers (2) projecting therefrom and supporting infrared heating tubes (3) and having a housing (5, 6) connected to the opposite side of the reflector disc and adapted to incorporate mounting members (8) and to be able to enclose cooling and/or ventilation means.

Patentansprüche

1. Reflektor für Infrarot-Strahlungsöfen zur Wärmebehandlung von Gegenständen, umfassend eine Ofenkammer (13), durch welche die zu behandelnden Gegenstände laufen und die Strah-lungsquellen aufweist, die aus Infrarot-Heizzöhren (3, 17) bestehen, hinter denen Reflektoren (1, 14, 15, 16) angeordnet sind, dadurch gekennzeichnst, daß wenigstens die Reflektoroberfläche (1, 16) aus einem keramischen Fasermaterial besteht, des den größten Teil der Strahlung der Infrarot-Heizröhre reflektieren, jedoch einen Tell davon absorbieren kann, um auf den Oberflächen der Reflektoren eine so hohe Temperatur zu erzeugen, die ausreicht, um Fremckörper auf den Reflektoroberfischen zu Asche zu verbrennen.

2. Reflektor nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß des Reflektormaterial Al₂O₃ enthält.

- 3. Reflektor nach Anspruch 1 oder 2. dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Reflektormaterial zu 43 bis 47% aus Al₂O₂ und zu 57 bis 53% aus SiO₂ besteht.
- 4. Reflektor für einen Infrarot-Strahlungsofen nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß dieser als selbsttragende Reflektorplatte (1) ausgebildet ist, die Halter (2) für die Aufnahme von Infrarot-Halzröhren (3) aufweist, ohne deß zwischen den Infrarot-Helzrühren und der Reflektorfläche Abschirmungen eingesetzt sind.
- 5. Reflektor für einen Infrarot-Strahlungsofen nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß dieser als kastenförmige Einhelt mit einer Reflektorplatte (1) ausgebildet ist, die auf einer ihrer flachen Oberflächen nicht abgeschirmte Halter (2) trägt, die von dieser Oberfläche abstehen und Infrarot-Heizröhren (3)

tragen, wobei die kestenförmige Einheit ein Gehäuse (5, 6) aufweist, das an der gegenüberliegenden Seite der Reflektorplatte befestigt ist und zur Aufnahme von Befestigungsmittel (B) sowie von Kühlungs- und/oder Belüftungsmitteln geelgnet ist.

Revendications

1. Structure reflectrice pour fours à rayonnement infra-rouge destinés au traitement thermique l'objets et incorporant une chambre de four (13) dans laquelle on achemine les objets à traiter et qui est pourvue des sources de rayonnement constituées par des tube chauffants à infra-rouge (3, 17), et comportant des réflecteurs (1, 14, 15, 16) prévus derrière lesdits tubes à infrarouge, caractérisée en ce qu'au moins la surface des réfiecteurs (1, 16) est un matériau céramique fibreux, apte à réfléchir la plus grande partie du rayonnement du tube chauffant à infra-rouge, mais à absorber une portion dudit rayonnement de manière à ce qu'une température suffisemment élevée soit atteinte sur les aurfaces des réflectaurs pour que des impuretés quelconques présentes sur lesdites surfaces des réflecteurs puissent être

Structure réflectrice selon la revendication 1, caractérizão en co que le matériau réflecteur

comprend du Al₂O₂.

3. Structure réflectrice selon la revendication 1 ou 2, caractérisé en ce que le matériau réflecteur est constitué de 43-47% de Al₂O₃ et 57-53% de

4. Structure réflectrice pour un four à rayonnement infra-rouge salon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, cerectérisée en ce qu'elle est agencée en tant que disque réflecteur autosupportant (1) pourvu d'organes de retenue (2) destinés à supporter des tubes chauffants à infrarouge (3), sans écrans intermédiaires entre les tubes à infra-rouge et la surface des réflecteurs.

5. Structure réflectrice pour un four à rayonnament infra-rouge selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, caractérisée en ce qu'elle est agencée en tant qu'unité en forme de boltier pourvue d'un disque réflecteur (1) qui porte, sur l'une de ses surfaces latérales planes, des organes de retenue (2) non masquées par un écran. faisant sallile à partir de ladite surface et supportant des tubes chauffants à infre-rouge (3), et comportant un carter (5, 6) fixé sur le côté opposé du disque réflecteur et apte à incorporer des éléments de montage (8) de même que propre à renfermer des moyens de refroidissement et/ou de ventilation.

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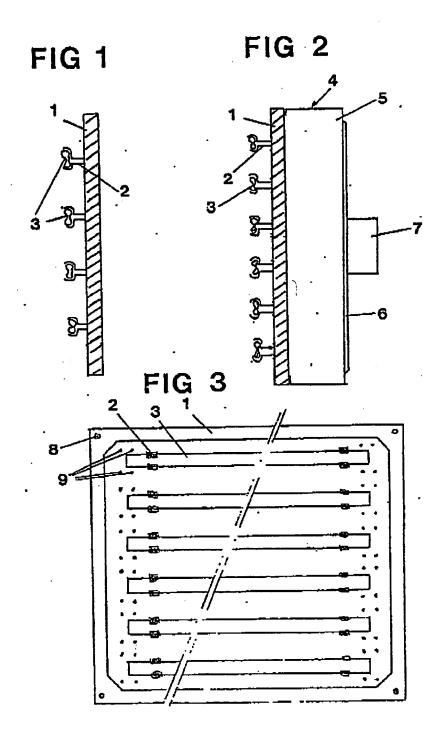


FIG 4

